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REMARKS

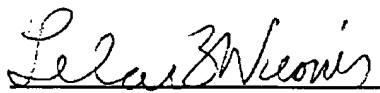
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's most recent review of the case and telephonic discussion on December 18, 2003. In light of this discussion, Applicant has submitted the present RCE and thereby retracted the Appeal in order to bring the present invention to allowance. In furtherance of this effort, the Applicant has submitted amended claims neither taught or suggested alone or in combination with any cited reference by either the Examiner or the Applicant. Accordingly, the Applicant would respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the Applicant's invention in light of these modifications and allow the claims as filed and amended.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Leland Wiesner, Applicants' Attorney at (650) 853-1113 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

December 23, 2003
Date


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